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BE PROUD, AND CONGRATS...

NEW BUFFALO CLASS OF 2025 LAUDED FOR THEIR RESILIENCE, GROWTH

— PAGES 10-11 —

PHOTO OF GRADUATES BIDDING FAREWELL TO HIGH SCHOOL DURING A PARADE DOWN CLAY AND WHITTAKER STREETS BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Berrien County Health Department announces summer schedule for Pre-K, Preschool dental, hearing and vision screening clinics

The Berrien County Health Department ha announced the summer schedule for its prekindergarten and preschool dental, hearing and vision screening clinics, which begin Monday, June 9.

The screenings are required by state law for all children entering kindergarten at public and private schools.

The BCHD clinics are free and open to all Berrien County residents. Parents and guardians of children entering preschool are also encouraged to get their student screened for dental, hearing and vision.

"Young children may unknowingly have hearing and vision problems," said Melisa Jordan, BCHD's hearing and vision coordinator. "Undiagnosed problems can hinder a child's ability to read or hear the teacher's instructions. That's why it's critically important for parents and caregivers to get children screened before they start kindergarten or preschool to ensure they are ready for success in the classroom."

Summer clinics are available at the following locations by appointment 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit www.bchdhearingcvision or call Melisa Jordan at 269-926-7121, ext. 5293.

- Merritt Elementary, 160 La Salle Ave., Niles – Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10
- Hollywood Elementary, 143 E. John Beers Road, Stevensville – Thursday, June 12
- Roosevelt Elementary, 2000 El Dorado Drive, Stevensville – Tuesday, June 17
- Watervliet South Elementary, 433 Lucinda Lane, Watervliet – Tuesday, June 24
- Coloma Administration Building, 302 W. St. Joseph St., Coloma – Wednesday, June 18
- Lybrook Elementary, 6238 West Main St., Eau Claire – Tuesday, July 29
- Northside Niles Child Development Center, 2020 N. Fifth St., Niles – Tuesday, Aug. 5
- Stewart Elementary, 2750 Orchard Lane, Stevensville – Tuesday, Aug. 12

BCHD will also provide dental, hearing and vision screenings at its annual Back-to- School Bash 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21 at its Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave. For this event, walk-ins are welcome. School-required immunizations also will be offered at the Back-to-School Bash.

The dental screening takes about five minutes and involves a dental hygienist briefly looking at the child's teeth and gums and then noting any findings. If any dental issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for a dental exam at the family's dentist of choice.

The hearing screening takes about three minutes and features six sounds for the child to identify. If any hearing issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for a hearing exam at the family's health care provider or the Berrien Springs Public Schools Hearing Center.

The vision screening takes five to 10 minutes and features four shapes for the child to identify. If any vision issues are discovered, BCHD provides a referral for an eye exam at the family's eye doctor of choice.

Find more information about the dental, hearing and vision screening clinics at www.bchdhearingvision. — **STAFF REPORTS**

You have one soul; adorn it beautifully each day, for the soul, a day is a lifetime.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
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MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
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DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

City council approves plans to upgrade softball field

APPROVES GRANT APPLICATION FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo City Council approved the design plans for the upgrades to the city-owned softball fields at Oselka Park as well as applying for a grant to improve some local streets at a special Monday, June 2, meeting.

Per a council packets, the city has leased the softball fields, fields #3 and #4, to the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority (NBARA).

Similarly, New Buffalo Area Schools has leased the district-owned baseball field to NBARA.

NBARA has received the Passport Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for a portion of the softball field upgrades. A private donor is interested in providing financial assistance to get the girls softball infield artificially turfed.

"In accordance with the lease agreements for the softball fields, NBARA will manage the construction process in coordination with the city, including final design, bidding, construction oversight, and payment processing. The final design of any field improvements must be reviewed and approved by the city prior to bidding and construction," the packet stated.

Tom Rowland, vice president of the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation, said the foundation has recived upwards of $350,000 to contribute to the project, with the goal being that there will be no cost to the city to "fund and finance the improvements to the softball field going forward."

The foundation has selected GeoSurfaces, a Tencate company, the potential contractor for the project based on the lower cost and quality of the turf including safety, durability and playability.

Rowland added it also has the longest warranty of any product they've seen in the market, as most turf fields have a eight to 10 year warranty whereas this one has a 12-year one.

Being a non-infill product, less annual maintenance will be required.

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said said the softball field, which will be done through the DNR grant, "will be extended for ADA accessibility" and the concrete around that area will be done through the grant as well.

Regarding the proposal for the softball field, artifical turf would be put into the infield only. There's a base bid price of $311,000, which includes a stone base. On the school side, Bowen said that they decided to go with a concrete base, which has a 25-year warranty, which is a $42,000 upgrade.

He added that the foundation also wants to put in a four-pole net only backstop, which is an additional $52,000.

Additional considerations include some regrading, which Bowen said could be done now or later. If regrading does occur, some reseeding will need to be done or sod will need to be put out there.

New Buffalo City Manager Darwin Watson said that his recommendation is that the city holds off on other amenities.

"That would be at our cost – if there's something that comes along, a grant or something, we may be able to apply for it and I'd recommend it at that time," he said, adding that there are several projects that city is trying to accomplish.

Bowen said that one contractor working on two fields at one time will save costs, and that's anticipated that work wil begin on both fields in July.

Council members approved applying for the MDOT TEDF Category B Grant in the amount of $439,787.50, with a 50% reimbursement of $219,893.75 for Fiscal Year 2026, to go toward local road improvements.

Per the council packet, MDOT Office of Economic Development is accepting applications for the CSIF, more commonly referred to as TEDF Category B.

The "program was created and designed as a stop gap measure to provide additional road funding to the smallest communities in Michigan (villages and small cities with a population of 10,000 or less per the 2020 census), particularly those with limited ability to fund road projects."

"The state's recent supplemental appropriation will allow for the continuation of the annual program for several grant cycles," the summary stated.

Three streets have been identified by the city for application to the TEDF Category B program: South Berrien Street, from West Buffalo Street to Indiana Street, for $121,417.50; Marquette Drive, from the beach to city limits, for $272,670; and North Townsend Street, from Merchant to Mechanic, for $45,700.

Watson said that, based on PASER Ratings, these local streets fall into the 3 or 4 range, which is "on the bad side of ratings."

Potential work may also be done with sewer and water, as eligible projects include stormwater improvements needed for the road project.

It is anticipated that award announcements will be made by mid-September 2025, with funding available after Oct. 1, for implementation in 2026, depending on the volume of applications.

There is nothing else than now. There is neither yesterday, certainly, nor is there any tomorrow. How old must you be before you know that?
— Ernest Hemingway

Local agencies rescue individual from deep hole

A male who was stuck in an approximately 9 feet deep hole was rescued in the Grand Beach/Michiana area last week thanks to the efforts of local agencies.

According to a press release made by Ryan Layman, chief of police for the villages of Grand Beach and Michiana, at approximately 1 p.m. Thursday, May 29, the Grand Beach/Michiana Police Department was dispatched to the 4100 block of Lakeshore Drive for a male subject that was stuck in a hole.

When officers arrived on scene, they found the male subject was buried up to his waist in sand.

"Rescue efforts were immediately started, and multiple area agencies responded to assist. A Bobcat was requested from the area to assist in digging the subject out. The terrain and location of the subject were very challenging for rescuers," the release stated.

A request for the Michigan City Fire Department's trench rescue equipment was made. After approximately one hour, the male subject was rescued.

He was treated at the scene by Medic 1 and refused transport to the hospital.

The Grand Beach/Michiana Police Department would like to thank the following agencies: New Buffalo Township Fire Department Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department Medic 1 Ambulance New Buffalo City Police Department - Michigan Pokagon Tribal Police Department Long Beach Police Department - Indiana Michigan City Fire Department

"This successful outcome highlights the importance of strong inter-agency cooperation and emergency response preparedness," Layman said. — STAFF REPORTS

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

WHAT IS YOUR BODY TRYING TO TELL YOU

Our bodies are so perfect, that they give us warning signs when something is not going well within. Just like the dummy lights on your car. If your brakes are compromised, a light will come on to warn you. At this point you can ignore it, take the lightbulb out, or do something about the potential disaster that could be ahead.

Our body needs this same attention. When symptoms get our attention, we need to do something about it at that time. Not wait for the potential disaster that could be ahead. Our health is our responsibility and our health is our best weatlh.

Here are some definite warnings that something is awry and we need to act. This is where natural medicine works very well. It is not yet a full-blown emergency and we can assist our bodies with gentle natural food or herbs.

DIARRHEA – this is your body eliminating toxins very quickly that are poison. The body wants it out now. If it is a short bout, you are blessed that it happened to purge that toxin. If it goes on and on, you are losing electrolytes and need to replace them. Try Sole' water and/ or coconut water. You could try some natural binding foods like bananas or rice or even some Activated charcoal. This is a great natural medicine to keep in your home.

NAUSEA AND VOMITING – Also expelling harmful substances quickly for your health. Again, replace your electrolytes.

HEADACHES – happens for many reasons. Usually dehydration tops the list, but it could be tension in the neck and occiput. It could be caffeine, sugar, stress, lack of sleep and so on. It is not due to lack of aspirin. Try to treat the CAUSE of the headache, not just the symptom. The first suggestion I have is to drink a 16 oz. glass of water. Add some coconut water for natural electrolytes.

INFLAMMATION Your bodies attempt at repairing damaged tissue. With an acute injury, it is a great healing that our body offers when it is in good health. Today we stay in a chronic state of inflammation due to certain diet and lifestyle that deteriorates our total health. You need to address diet and lifestyle completely with this chronic issue.

FEVER your body killing infection that could cause you great harm. Always stopping a fever is not the answer. The fever spikes in order to destroy what is causing our illness in the first place. Assist the fever with tepid baths, cool rags on the neck and forehead, hydration and complete rest.

Suppressing a fever with Advil or Tylenol can actually prolong the illness by working against the body's natural defense mechanism. These medications also have some scary and little talked about risks from frequent and repeated use. Only suppress a dangerously high fever that lasts a very long time. Hydrating with herbal tea like ginger, peppermint, cinnamon or yarrow usually keeps that from happening though. The herbal tea is very high in minerals that the body needs for electrolyte and hydration.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

Steamboat rides coming to La Porte

People will have a chance to ride on an over century old, converted steamboat in La Porte.

Steamboat rides on Pine Lake have been added to this year's LakeFest, which runs for three days beginning July 25.

The boat seating up to 18 passengers is a converted lifeboat from the SS Alabama, a steamship that cruised the Great Lakes from 1910 to 1946.

The lifeboat was salvaged in 1961 when the SS Alabama started being converted for use as a barge.

A steam engine was put in the later restored lifeboat in 1998.

La Porte Park Department Superintendent Mark Schreiber said the boat will be towed about 60 miles to La Porte from Cedar Lake, Indiana, where it's been used the past few years to give rides to the public.

"This is an opportunity not just to get out on the water by a pontoon or speed boat, but to actually be on something historic, something that has a lot of interest to it," he said.

Schreiber said people during the fifth annual LakeFest will be able to board the steam powered vessel at Unity Park beside Pine Lake Avenue.

The cost for a 30-minute ride will be $25 for adults and $15 for children 13 and under. Way back in the day, the vessel used to be a life boat, tagging along with larger steam vessels cruising on Lake Michigan. — **STAN MADDUX**

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
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New Buffalo actor ties for 'Outstanding Featured Actor' at WAVE Awards

HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES SEVEN NOMINATIONS

Aaron Illescas-Villa, who portrayed the Orin Scrivello in New Buffalo High School's Spring production of "Little Shop of Horrors," tied with Aiden Apreza for portraying Oberon Fulton in Hartford High School's "High School Musical 2: Live on Stage" production for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical during the fourth annual WAVE Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre held May 21 at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre.

New Buffalo received nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Set Design in a Musical, Dwayne Whitmyer; Outstanding Lighting Design in a Musical, Lloyd Whitmyer; Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical, Deb Rancatore; Outstanding Featured Ensemble in a Musical, The Urchins; Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical, Addison Lamport; Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical, Henry Gadiel and Outstanding Direction in a Musical, Chris Beushausen.

The cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors

Presented by LMC's Visual & Performing Arts Department and loosely designed after Broadway's Tony Awards, the WAVE Awards recognize high school theater students and arts educators from Berrien, Van Buren, and Cass counties in Michigan and St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties in Indiana. Ten adjudicators evaluated 12 high schools and approximately 700 students who participated in high school musical productions in the 2024-2025 academic year. Individuals and productions from participating schools were nominated in 13 acting and technical categories.

"The LMC Visual and Performing Arts team is deeply committed to supporting our artistic community and nurturing the next generation of performers and creative thinkers," said Kristopher Zook, LMC Dean of Arts & Sciences and founder of the WAVE Awards

Presenters included Dawn Aulet, features editor of the Herald Palladium; Lynnetta Hamstra, manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center at Andrews University; Dr. Ken Flowers, executive vice president of Lake Michigan College; Leah Steinhiser, WNIT and PBS Michiana's educational engagement liaison; Susan Dietrich-Reed, executive director and director of music at the Citadel Dance and Music Center; Peggy Harrington, trustee of Twin City Players; Michael Bond, Acorn Theatre's senior production manager; Shalico Sain, Lake Michigan College theatre instructor; Peter Carey, film and voiceover actor; and Cassidy Vlietstra, program director of The Drama Spot.

Several awards were announced by pre-recorded videos from theater celebrities, including Broadway star Gavin Lee, Shea Grant from "Stranger Things: The First Shadow," Joanna Gleason, Tony Award-winning actress from "Into the Woods," and Emmy Award-winning animator Dan Povenmire.

All nominees received an LMC Red Hawk Scholarship for a three-credit course taken within the next four academic years and written feedback from a panel of arts professionals.

For a complete list of winners and nominees of the 2024-2025 WAVE Awards, visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu/wave. — **STAFF REPORTS**

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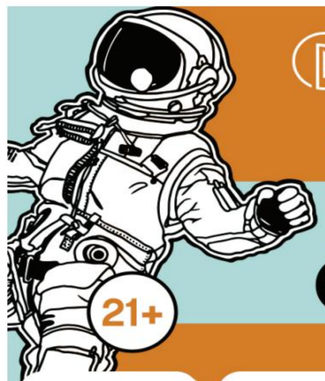

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SPORTS

No repeat as district champions for Bison

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School baseball team fell short in its bid to repeat as District 4 champions.

After defeating Eau Claire 15-5, the Bison advanced to the district title game but lost to Michigan Lutheran 9-3.

New Buffalo High School was the host of this year's district tournament.

The Bison scored the first two runs of the game in the bottom of the third inning when senior Vaughn Nikkel doubled to left field and scored after the next batter, senior Ethan Lijewski, stroked a triple that one hopped the right center field fence.

Lijewski came home when the next hitter, senior Nick Wolfe, reached base on a ground ball misplayed by the shortstop.

Nikkel, who started the game from the mound, gave up no runs while recording three strikeouts in his first three innings of work.

He began struggling, though, in the fourth inning when the Titans scored twice.

The Bison regained the lead in the bottom of the inning after Braedan Bergerson led off with a line drive single up the middle.

Trevor James followed with a base hit to right field, which advanced Bergerson to third base.

With one out, Bergerson crossed the plate on a routine ground ball that was fielded and thrown to the first baseman to get the runner, Drew Bowen.

Michigan Lutheran came back and tied the game on back-to-back doubles to start the next inning.

After loading the bases by hitting the next two batters, Nikkel was replaced by freshman Colten Lijewski.

A sacrifice fly by the next batter drove in the runner from third base.

Lijewski loaded the bases again on a walk, then after a strikeout, one more runner crossed the plate on a walk before the inning ended on a fly ball caught by the right fielder.

However, the Bison fell apart in the sixth inning when four of the first five batters for the Titans reached base on a single, walk, hit batsman and a fielding error.

After another walk, Lijewski was replaced by Wolfe, who gave up a two RBI single to the first batter he faced and went the distance without another run scoring.

Wolfe led off the final inning for the Bison by reaching base on an infield single but any hopes for a rally ended when outs were made by the next three batters.

The Bison finished the season at 17-11 with five of those losses to the Titans.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Like many teams, in many cities, in a variety of different sports, the coach (or manager) often receives too much praise when a team wins and too much blame when they lose.

Through the years here in Chicago, we've had our share of really bad coaches with an occasional good one sprinkled in, but at this moment, I believe we've got nothing to complain about. Let's take a look.

The last three men to coach the Blackhawks for at least an entire season were Joel Quenneville, Jeremy Colliton, and Luke Richardson. Quenneville, who led the team to three Stanley Cups, would probably still be coaching if it weren't for an assistant coach that did terrible things to one of the players, causing multiple firings.

Colliton and Richardson were run of the mill although they had little to work with. Next season, Jeff Blashill, who previously coached the Detroit Red Wings, will give it a try.

The Bulls last three coaches were Fred Hoiberg, Jim Boylen, and Billy Donovan. Hoiberg wasn't terrible but Boylen was. Donovan is a professional but not exceptional. Last season the front office helped him out by putting a young team together that has a chance to be decent.

There have been a couple of stories recently that indicated the Bulls might be on the verge of hiring former Bull great Scottie Pippen to replace Donovan. Please don't let those stories be true.

The White Sox have had three underwhelming recent managers. Tony La Russia's hiring was the beginning of the downward spiral the Sox have been in lately. He was replaced by Pedro Grifol who seemed to do nothing to pull the team out of their lethargy.

Currently Will Venable is captaining the ship and the Sox are much more competitive than they have been lately. A few more good players wouldn't hurt.

The Cubs have had good luck with managers lately. Joe Maddon led them to their first World Series victory in a century. He was followed by one of the World Series heroes, David Ross, who did a fine job but was replaced by Craig Counsell who was widely considered the best manager in baseball.

Under his guidance, Peter Crow Armstrong is blossoming into a superstar and the Cubs are leading their division Counsell should be around for many years.

Sometimes it feels like the Bears haven't had a good coach since Mike Ditka roamed the sidelines. While that isn't true, the list certainly contains more misses than hits. John Fox was hired for some reason, I'm sure.

Matt Nagy started out strong, but quickly fizzled. The Matt Eberflus era started decently but went downhill rapidly. Then the unthinkable happened. They hired the most sought after coach of the last two years and without even coaching a game, he's my favorite Bears coach of my rather lengthy life.

Ben Johnson is an impressive man. He commands respect just by walking into the room. He's an offensive genius, he's hired an impressive staff, and added so much respect to the organization that their opponents are worried, which hasn't been the case for quite some time.

I'm so looking forward to the future.

Alexander the Great said, "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep. I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I'm a learner. I just soak things up.
— Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

Bison track team members shine in state competition

BY STAN MADDUX

Several members of the New Buffalo High School track team came home from the Division 4 state track meet recently as school record breakers.

Eva Bauer broke her own school record in the long jump with a jump of 16' 6.5"

Her distance was good enough for fourth place in the competition on Saturday, May 31, in Hudsonville.

Anne Gradowski, Lydia Denham, Jane Funk and Harper Bowman placed fifth in the girls' 4x400 relay with a school record time of just over 4 minutes and 14 seconds.

Bauer, Gradowski, Bowman and Harlow Allee placed 10th in the girls 4x100 relay with a time of 52.79 seconds, which broke their previous school record.

Bauer and the 4x400 relay team earned All-State honors by finishing in the top eight in their events, said New Buffalo High School Athletic Director Matt Johnson.

Raiders stopped in district title game in girls' softball

BY STAN MADDUX

The young and spirited Red Arrow Raiders made it to the district tournament championship game in girls' high school softball but the door to extending their post season run quickly slammed shut.

They were defeated 16-0 in a game called after three innings by a stacked with talent squad from Buchanan.

Nevertheless, not many, if any, of his players were hanging their heads.

"The girls kept a very positive attitude and, even with the last out, they were still cheering and pulling for their teammates," said Raiders Head Coach Erick Rochefort.

Rochefort said he knew it would be a tough mountain for his players to climb before the game.

"They're just a really good team all around. Offense, pitching and defense," he said.

The Raiders (19-12) advanced to the title game in the district tournament held in Buchanan this year by defeating Cassopolis 11-3.

Greta Vollman pitched the entire semi-final game for the Raiders.

Addie Lynch helped lead the way in what was a balanced attack on offense with two doubles, two singles and two runs batted in.

Johnna Rochefort, Emma Seifert and Ava Ledesma also had multiple hits in driving in two runs apiece.

The Raiders jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning then were ahead 7-1 after five more runners crossed the plate with two outs in the fourth inning.

The team should be well positioned to make another run for the district title with just two seniors graduating and almost every other player this year being sophomores and freshman.

Rochefort said he also likes what he sees in players in the lower grade levels expected to compete for varsity roster spots next season.

"We know we have good talent coming up. That's going to help us next year and make us a better team that what we were this year," he said.

New Buffalo Class of 2025 lauded for their resilience, growth

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

To say that the New Buffalo High School Clas of 2025 is "outstanding," New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley said, is an "understatement."

Among the accolades of this year's 45-member senior class are: 18 Senior Scholars; 27 students in the National Honor Society; three seniors who've led the school to the state level for Quiz Bowl and 10 who've led the state Envirothon Tournament Team; one engineer who led the Robotics team to the Worlds championship competition, a first in the school's history; 10 students who are graduating with STEM endorsements, seven with a Seal of Biliteracy; two CTE Student of the Year recipients; one who's graduating as a certified firefighter and two welders; and a national champion dancer, who took first place overall for her solo, and a national and state gymnast for her floor exercise.

Collectively, the class has earned 204 college credits so far, with 174 potentially as the school waits for Advanced Placement scores to come in July.

Roughly, the class has $375,000 in scholarships and helped the school be ranked as the 56th Best Public High School out of 908 others in the state, according to U.S World News report.

"To the class of 2025, this has truly been an inspirational and unforgettable journey that has prepared you for the future, wherever your future takes you... You should be very honored to be part of this dynamic class," Ripley said at their graduation Friday, May 30..

When she taught them their freshmen year in History, Caroline Fortunato, student advocate who served as this year's guest speaker, said she could see a glimmer of evidence of what the students would achieve in their high school careers.

She also saw it when she coached many of them in track, in their "pursuit of PRs, your focus at the high jump and the grit it took to attack the hurdles even after a tough race."

"Whether in the classroom or on the track, you showed up either for yourselves or each other and that's what set you apart," Fortunato said.

The students stepped into high school in 2021 – an uncertain time, as the pandemic still loomed large in the background. The hallways, Fortunato said, were "quieter," with the "traditions and rhythms that usually mark those early high school days" absent.

Nonetheless, the students still "found your footing, you built friendships, showed resilience and stayed open to growth."

"The way you show up for one another, not for recognition but because it's who you are - you've always been a class with heart - you've lifted each other through setbacks, carried your challenges without letting them define you and kept going when it would've been easy to give up," Fortunato said.

Male and female Athletes of the Year M'nason Smothers and Riley Tertel

Ekolu Brown accepts his diploma

Addison Lamport walks off the stage after accepting her diploma

Alice Morris and Benita Puskunigis reflect on sophomore year

Emily Walters and Gianna Burian reflect on junior year

Ellen Ripley shakes Stephen Donnelly's hand after accepting her diploma

Erick Gaeta and Axel Rodriguez reflect on freshman year

Seniors perform one last time as part of the band

Graduates celebrate in a parade down Clay Street

Senior Scholars are celebrated

Graduates celebrate during a parade down Clay and Whittaker streets

Gladys Mcginn gives the senior address

Aiden Lowery and Benjamin Tripp open with the Pledge of Allegiance

Guest speaker Caroline Fortunato commends the Class of 2025

Eva Bauer and Jane Funk reflect on senior year

Nicolette Durham accepts her diploma

Members of the faculty process into the gym

Graduates toss their caps in the air in celebration

Students did encounter some challenges in their school careers, such as having to quarantine for two weeks whenever they were in contact with someone with Covid during their freshmen year or conquering through the traditional SATs their junior year. The fun times that intermingled with the rough ones, though, helped them make it through: being a part of the "legendary" boys' freshmen basketball team, which Erik Gaeta and Axel Rodriguez-Sanchez said they hoped wasn't overshadowed by the varsity basketball team winning districts; getting their licenses and not having to look to upperclassmen as their "Uber drivers;" attending prom; the girls' basketball team winning conference in their senior year; visiting Washington, D.C. to make up for their traditional eighth grade trip being cancelled due to Covid and living with hosts families in Spain.

At the beginning of this school year, Eva Bauer said, students held a "Senior Sunrise" at the beach – to "signify the beginning of the end."

Gladys McGinn, who gave his year's senior address, urged students to ask themselves a question: What do you want to be when you grow up?

"I hope we will choose to be humble - we all have room to grow, we all have a lot to learn, and we never stop learning, especially as we transition from seniors to being beginners again - in the workplace or at college," she said.

McGinn added that she hopes that the students will also choose to be "giving" in honor of those who've "poured" into them and made sacrifices for them.

"Now, it is our turn to give back, pour into someone else's life, be generous, serve," she said.

In the grand scheme of life, McGinn said, students' test scores, sports teams, backgrounds, achievements, careers or colleges don't matter all that much.

"It matters who you are and who you become, it matters who you admire and who you follow, it matters what you value and live for...These things matter because you matter, you have infinite worth that cannot be earned or lost," she said.

The New Buffalo High School Class of 2025 is: Senior Scholars Eva Bauer, Lucas Behzadi, Ryker Donkersloot, Nicollette Durham, Jane Funk, Josette Humphrey, Addison Lamport, Gladys McGinn, Alice Morris, Vaughn Nikkel, Benita Puskunigis, Ellen Ripley, Riley Tertel, Ava Totzke, Benjamin Tripp, Ella Vyskocil, Emily Walters and Lily Wulf; Kylie "Sage" Ashdown; Carl "Ekolu" Brown; Gianna Burian; Ryan Burian; Miles Casper; Mateo Eudave; Maegan Fatter; Erik Gaeta; Vincent Glorioso; Xochitl Hernandez; Sadie James; Ethan Lijewski; Aiden Lowery; Elizabeth McDonald; Deonna McGrew; Ariadna Meza Venegas; Nasir Muhammad; Olivia Plis; Axel Rodriguez-Sanchez; Craig Ruszkowski; Christopher Sabich; Maggie Sanchez; Cassidy Saunders; M'nason Smothers; Hannha "Han" Tannehill; Keyon Tomilo and Maia "Mylo" Walters.

Light That Listens

As the sun fades, your circadian rhythm begins its evening shift. Cortisol lowers. Melatonin rises. Your body remembers rest. This natural dimming is rare in modern life. Sunset is a cue your body has been waiting for.

—Sunset Series by New Buffalo Times: Inspired by Light & Science

Moonlight Memo:

This week, we welcome the radiant energy of the Strawberry Moon, peaking Wednesday, June 11 at 3:44 PM.

Known for its soft pink hue and symbolic ripening, this full moon invites reflection:

What in your life is quietly coming into fullness?

A Day in the Life

THE THREE MUSKETEERS AND A DAY OUT...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

We get together at least once a month. That is Suzie, who is an hour and a half away who was the sister to my best friend in high school and college. She was seven years younger and said she always wanted to marry me. That was years ago when I replied "Never say never!" She is a widow now.

Then there is Bob of Three Oaks, the third of the "ThreeMusketeers" All of us make a chic group if there ever was one. Bob and I are the same age while Suzie is a decade younger but amazingly enjoys our company.

There was a quick discussion of where we should go first and it was decided we'd go to MacDonald's for some unusual place. Actually it is for me since I don't drive and I love a Big Mac with the condiments on both sides of the hamburger. French fries and a Coke and I'm in heaven!

We left there and went to another classy destination; The Harbor Country Mission. For those of you not "in the know", it's where you take anything you don't want to throw away. For those who hate the new Levis look, it's perfect. I got four pair. Suzie got books as always and Bob got a light fixture for his closet. They were having a sale of $20.00 for a shopping cart so that's what we paid. I was disappointed that I didn't find more stuff!

We then went to Meijer's where Bob had to get something.I got four pairs of sweatpants on sale and Suzie got a sweater. Bob and I zipped around on electric carts while Suzie was on foot but managed to keep up, bless her heart. I love Meijer's for the side shows too; The most bizarrely dressed women are there. Tattoos galore and skin tight bright print polyester dresses in wild colors. It was a side show the whole time there!

From there we decided to have a little dinner and decided to grace the Get Away's food finery, nothing but the best for us! Actually, they have very good food to the surprise of many and you see all walks of life there as well. Their menu has a hundred items on it and all of what I ever had there is delicious and generous, including shrimp salad, steak, and hamburgers. The secret to know is that on Wednesdays the hamburgers are only a buck...nice size too.

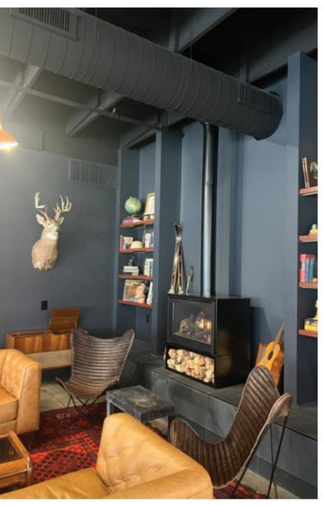
My gal friend and I used to go every Wednesday until I fell down on the ice in the back parking lot. They came out in a team and helped me up graciously. We never went back. It put a bad spell on the idea but now in the nice weather maybe I can talk myfriend into going again. The "deal" there besides the dollar hamburgers is the French Fries of which you only need one orderbecause they are so big. But the drinks are expensive at $2.00 for your choice of home made ice tea or any fountain beverage. I'm hungry, I think I'll call her up right now! No answer. But we all had hamburgers even though it wasn't Wednesday. We were Big shots.

Then after we tootled on to my house where Suzie and Bob worked on my commercial grade vacuum that I got from the "Mission" weeks ago. I got the biggest kick out of those two working on that dumb vacuum for at least an hour and a halfputting on the new belts that I had to order from some burg in Ohio. The original vacuum manufacturer is out of business of course. It's self propelled and really cleans well. But all of their laughter and joking around as they worked on getting the new belts on that dumb vacuum was another side show. But, it works great now and anyone who uses it raves about it.

Harbert Swedish Bakery. A century of rich tradition. Established in 1912

Longstory Wine Bar & Restaurant in Three Oaks

Alan Ray's The Coffee Place inside The Commune + Market in Three Oaks



Alan Ray's in Three Oaks

Harbert Swedish Bakery. Swedish Pancakes and Cream of Tomato Soup

The Harbor Grand in New Buffalo, Michigan

Redamak's, established 1946. The 'Hamburger that Made New Buffalo, Michigan Famous!"

Neon Moon Gelato in Union Pier

Swedish delights

Neon Moon Gelato

Fresh flavors making waves in the "Hamptons of the Midwest"

CULINARY SPOTLIGHT

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

The "Hamptons of the Midwest," renowned for its affluent summer community on Lake Michigan's woodsy shores, is buzzing with an exciting wave of fresh flavors. As the official newspaper of this unique locale—a set of eight towns and a harbor in southwest Michigan, a rustic upscale getaway for the notable in close proximity to Chicago—the New Buffalo Times has, since 1942, reflected its distinctive character. Last year's "Gems of the Lake Michigan Riviera" article was a hit, and this year, your local foodie curator is thrilled to unveil the new culinary experiences that are truly making waves. Ready to savor outstanding fare, sip artisanal coffee at a bustling market, discover a historic bakery with a modern twist, and indulge in delightful surprises at every turn? Add these fresh finds to your must-try list—because good taste is always in season.

Our first stop leads us to Harbert Swedish Bakery, also known as Luisa's Swedish Bakery & Market. Just north on Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, this bakery truly embodies a century of rich tradition. Established in 1912 by Swedish immigrants from the Erickson family, it represents an enduring dream that continues to thrive under the care of owners and mother-daughter duo Luisa Mills and Vivian May since 2001. Here, genuine heritage meets fresh flavors as classic Swedish delights like Limpa, Coffee Cakes, Fruit Pastries, gluten-free goodies, and Kringlor are meticulously crafted using original founders' recipes—a delicious link to generations past. Don't miss the irresistible Swedish Pancakes with lingonberries and comforting Cream of Tomato Soup. More than a culinary destination, this spot is a living legacy you can taste.

Our delectable journey continues its flavorful stride into the charming village of Three Oaks. Alan Ray's The Coffee Place inside The Commune + Market has quickly become the heart of Three Oaks' mornings. Conceived by creative spirits Reyna Larson and Alice Hoffmann, this spot radiates a signature warmth. Their custom coffee blends, roasted locally by Infusco Coffee Roasters of Sawyer, Michigan, are masterfully crafted to fuel both your day and your conversations. A latte or an oat-milk cortado paired with a truly amazing, flaky spinach puff pastry—its golden, crisp layers encasing a savory filling—was pure bliss, reminiscent of both an exquisite spanakopita and the delicate flavors of a Parisian patisserie.

And as the sun begins its descent, we arrive at Longstory Wine Bar & Restaurant, also in Three Oaks. This venue continues to weave its captivating culinary narrative into the evening, offering an atmosphere that is both refined and genuinely inviting. Here, the seared and roasted halibut doesn't just shine; it reigns as the undisputed star on the menu. Expertly prepared and succulent, brightened by a delicate lemon caper sauce, it spoke volumes of their unwavering commitment to quality and execution, leaving you eager for the next chapter.

Get ready for Redamak's, the iconic New Buffalo spot that's an absolute rite of passage, known for its 'Hamburger that Made New Buffalo, Michigan Famous!™.' Founded in 1946 by George and Gladys Redamak, it quickly became renowned for that legendary creation and a welcoming diner charm. Since 1975, the Maroney family has masterfully continued a beloved tradition, expanding the popular spot while staying true to its original spirit. I once even saw their legendary burger replicated on the menu of a Vail, Colorado ski resort restaurant in the 1990s—a true testament to its widespread fame.

After a day by Lake Michigan, The Harbor Grand's Terrace Room offers an elevated fireside dining experience with a refined ambiance. Its Frank Lloyd Wright-styled space, located within The Harbor Grand Hotel on New Buffalo harbor, evokes the charm of Siena in Tuscany. Within walking distance of the beach and shops, their authentic Italian dishes highlight regional ingredients. Their pasta selections are genuinely captivating, like the Ravioli Bandera with housemade ricotta spinach ravioli and a trio of sauces: alfredo, marinara, pesto. It's not just a meal; it's a truly memorable Italian escape.

Our final, and delightful, stop transports us to Union Pier, where Neon Moon Gelato, a cosmic scoop of sweet perfection, has firmly established itself as an absolute must-visit for any discerning purveyor of frozen delights. Launched by co-owners Nichole Rairigh and Max Ortega, this spot was designed as a welcoming haven for all ages. The space, both inside and out, evokes a delightful Mediterranean ambiance. Neon Moon Gelato delivers ethereal creaminess with their gelato and refreshing, dairy-free sorbetto, offering over 1000 unique, house-made flavors, including many gluten-free and vegan options, so you'll find your perfect treat. Choose from a Lil' Dipper to a Sputnik Flight, or indulge in a shake or smoothie.

Southwest Michigan's food scene truly offers a vibrant tapestry of culinary artistry. Whether you crave comforting classics, sophisticated new narratives, or the pure joy of a cosmic scoop, your next delicious adventure awaits.

Public Notice:
Your right to know!

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Chain-of-Command

I don't think many people like having someone fired. But business is business.

Kevin's telling me to take Sandy's job was clear enough, as was Lori's handing me off to Kevin. I'd served in the military. I know about chain-of-command. 'Orders'come from the top brass and pass down to administrators and supervisors until they reach the staffers/soldiers they are intended for. This guarantees everyone is on the same page.

'Queries' are passed from the person with the query up to their supervisor, then to administrators until they reach the person with operational responsibility. This ensures no one is doing an end run and that everyone is aware of what's going on.

I'd followed the chain-of-command, first going to Lori, then to Kevin. With Kevin's clear suggestion, my next step was Andy. Andy was in charge of business; Jean was in charge of creative. Andy would surely mention the Sandy-issue to Jean, but Andy was the person for me to go to.

I walked into his office confident Lori and Kevin were behind me on this, and presented the situation. He nodded, said it will be taken care of, and, just like that, the meeting was over. As I walked from Andy's office, I realized the decision to terminate Sandy had already been made. For reasons of their own, Andy, Lori and Kevin wanted me to have some ownership of it.

Now it was over.

Welcome to show business.

When I returned to the studio the next day, Sandy was gone, his desktop cleared of whatever had been his. I am the Care Bears' story editor now. It was bittersweet. Sandy wasn't a bad guy. He was a smart guy, had earned an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia.

But being a story editor wasn't for him. It seemed to me that he had been adrift, and one doesn't survive long in the entertainment world if one is adrift. Much later, I'd look him up on what would become the web. He'd written an episode of Jem here, Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n'Wrestling there. But except for snagging a slew of Tom & Jerry Kids' episodes, most of his gigs were single episodes.

To my knowledge he never worked again as a story editor.

The last I knew he was teaching at a college, which seemed the right fit for him.

This children's entertainment business, as I've said, can be brutal. It's not all about writing for warm and fuzzy teddy bears. It's also about politics, relationships, jockeying for position, occasionally Machiavellian maneuvering and sometimes doing something you're not proud of, but that nonetheless needed to be done.

In the epic film, Patton, there's a scene in which the hard-edged general whose audacity, dogged determination and relentlessness did more than any single person to win World War II is walking through a battlefield with his aide-de-camp after a battle. Patton surveils twisted tanks, bodies strewn everywhere. He looks up at acrid, choking black smoke rising to the sky and after a moment, in a grim confession, rasps, "I love it... God help me, I do love it so... I love it more than my life..."

I would come to know what the warrior general meant.

People die in wars. It's sad, and for a time you mourn them. But if you're a warrior you resign yourself to knowing it's a part of war and often to the benefit of those who go on battling for the victories that they and their fellow warriors seek...

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 5-11, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Your schedules will start to flow more smoothly this week, with no more start and stops to hold you back. Travel plans will be put back on track this week, and any kind of movement will prove beneficial. If you have to visit a far away client, or travel to collect money, lady luck will be with you.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You will be dealing with resources and financial issues that come from close relatives or interpersonal relationships. The division of material wealth is a serious issue that can cause a lot of friction and it should not be taken lightly. Don't give up your share because you feel socially obligated.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

This week you will be relying on people who are closest to you in love and business. In the love department you will be entertaining the idea of exclusivity or making plans to solidify your future together. In business, you will reach a turning point and you will see your finances improve greatly.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Your services are in high demand this week. Work schedules will be demanding but so will your social calender. You may find yourself working late and then partying all night. It is important you take good care of yourself, eat healthy, meditate and pamper when needed. Good week here.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This week, that stellar energy will be lighting up your relationships and creative forces. Children and their creation or care, will take center stage. Loved ones will get closer and you will have some breakthrough moments where the two of you connect in a deeply satisfying way. Think synergy, baby..

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

The slow pace that has plagued your schedule will finally lift this week. You will feel some substantial movement that will help you wrap up projects and home improvements. Wether you are putting the finishing touches on a remodel job, or signing a new lease, you will have it completed now.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Take a break from the material world this week and enjoy spending some of that extra money you have acquired on traveling to the country. Wether you take a long weekend or the whole week for that matter, get outside and enjoy the fresh air. A wine tour and a stay at a quaint B&B is perfect.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Focus on getting those bills paid this week, as your financial sector is highlighted by the full moon on Saturday. That day will also be a good day to collect any moneys that is owed to you from family or friends. This is not the time to launch new business ideas, wait until the end of June for that.

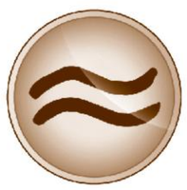
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Expect to feel your daily life start to move with more fluidity. Also your finances will be picking up and you will be able to move forward with more certainty. Wether you realize it or not people have admired your tenacity to career goals. They will happily show it with their pocket books.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

The full moon on Saturday will be lighting up your house of secrets. If something has been brewing under your radar this is the week it will come to light. Wether someone has been keeping secrets from you or if you have been in the dark about your own issues, now you will see the truth.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Most of the activity this week comes from your social life this week. Friends and loved ones will be coming forward with wonderful news that will give cause for celebration. Wether it is news of a birth or a wedding, you will feel very happy for them, as you have played a big part in this.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will be feeling a very good stirring in your career sector this week. You may be getting that promotion or raise you have been hoping for now. It may take a week or two for everything to come through but it is coming. You will be rewarded with cold hard cash, so stick with it.

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. — Mark Twain

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

			2	4		9		
2					6			
	7		5		3			
6		7	4		9		5	
8	4			2			6	
	9			6		3	8	
			7					5
		6					4	

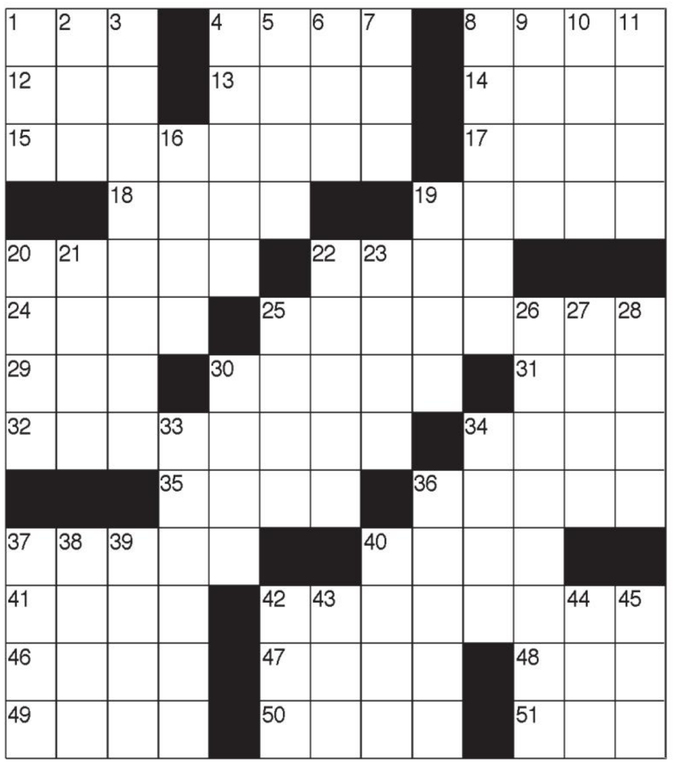
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Male cat
4 Bull (pref.)
8 Babist
12 Jamaican dance music
13 Ironwood
14 Equal (Fr.)
15 Caucasian carpet
17 Son of Loki
18 Cornmeal
19 Papal court
20 Oily ketone
22 Parent of Seth
24 House (Sp.)
25 Jay (2 words)
29 Presidential nickname
30 Father of Rachel
31 No (Scot.)
32 Of the bank of a river
34 Chin. dynasty
35 Above
36 Fr. historical provinces
37 Seed
40 Bright-colored fish
41 Alb (arch.)
42 Sweet red wine
46 Cheese
47 Agnomen
48 Comparative (suf.)
49 Galway Bay isles
50 Above (Ger.)
51 Amer. Basketball Assn. (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Tongue-clicking sound
2 S.A. tuber
3 Monkey
4 Cup (Fr.)
5 Proceedings
6 Diminutive (suf.)
7 Kidney (pref.)
8 Stupefy
9 Culture medium
10 Adriatic seaport
11 Lower intestine
16 Sayings (suf.)
19 Basse-Normandie city
20 Adjective-forming (suf.)
21 Noted physicist
22 Brit. saint
23 Double
25 Pressure (pref.)
26 Emblem
27 Teem
28 Mound of sand
30 Gait
33 Soup vessel
34 Blue Nile source lake
36 Scot. court officer
37 Textile fiber
38 Vibratory sound
39 Fetish
40 Era
42 S.A. herb
43 Science class
44 Afr. cotton garment
45 Age



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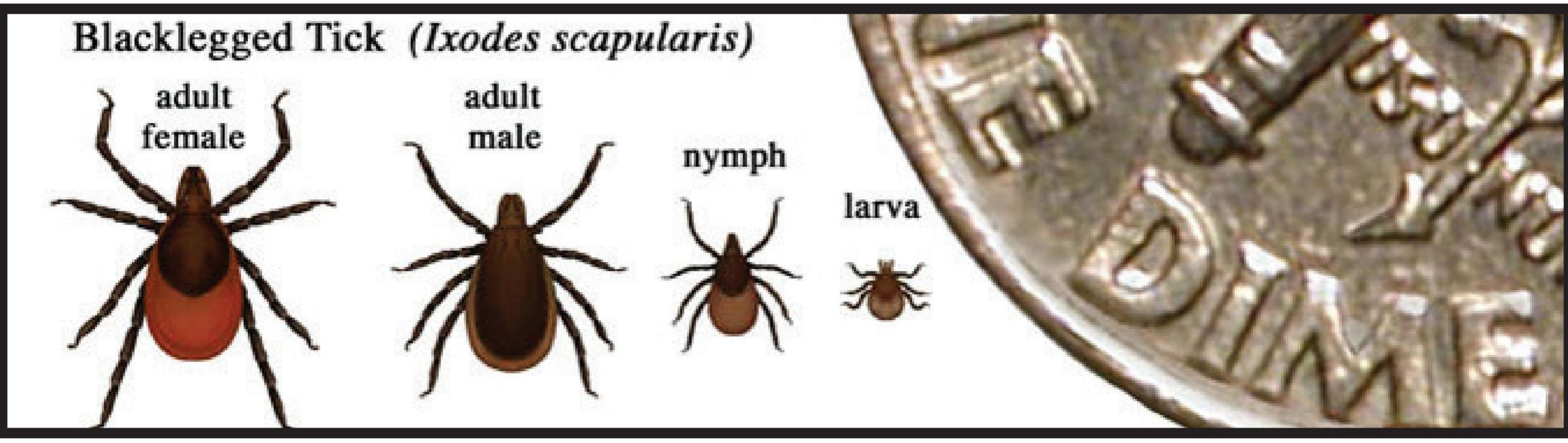


State senator from Michiana Shores accused by police of drunk driving

BY STAN MADDUX

An Indiana state lawmaker from Michiana Shores is accused by police of driving a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol.

State Sen. Mike Bohacek is alleged to have had a blood alcohol content over three times the legal limit following a Jan. 24 traffic stop in Michigan City, according to recently unsealed police reports filed May 15 in La Porte Superior Court 4.

Formal charges against the 56-year-old Bohacek have not been filed yet because no judge in La Porte County has agreed to review the findings to decide whether probable cause exists to issue a warrant for his arrest.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said whoever agrees to review the case will most likely be a judge from outside Bohacek's district to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

For same that reason, Fagan said he went to Porter County Prosecutor Gary Germann with the case to let his office decide whether the evidence was strong enough to present to a judge for a final determination.

Bohacek serves District 8, which includes parts of St. Joseph County, most of La Porte County and Marshall County and all of Starke County.

According to court documents, police were called about a man later identified as Bohacek exhibiting signs of intoxication just before and while ordering food at Panda Express in the 5200 block of Franklin St. in Michigan City.

Responding officers were soon notified Bohacek left the restaurant in a 2023 Dodge Charger with an Indiana State Senator license plate attached to it.

An officer quickly spotted the vehicle turn right onto U.S. 20.

After the officer paced his car at 62 miles per hour in a 45-mph zone, Bohacek was pulled over, coming to a stop partially off the four-lane stretch of highway, police said.

Bohacek denied consuming alcoholic beverages, explaining in a slurred speech he was coming back from Indianapolis and lacking sufficient sleep, according to court documents.

He was transported to a hospital where a sample of blood taken from his arm.

Test results from the Indiana State Department of Toxicology in Indianapolis later showed the sample contained a .283 percent blood alcohol content.

Police said Bohacek was not taken into custody because under the Indiana constitution senators and representatives except for treason, a felony or breach of peace are privileged from arrest during a session of the General Assembly.

At the time, the Indiana Legislature was in the first month of a four-month session this year.

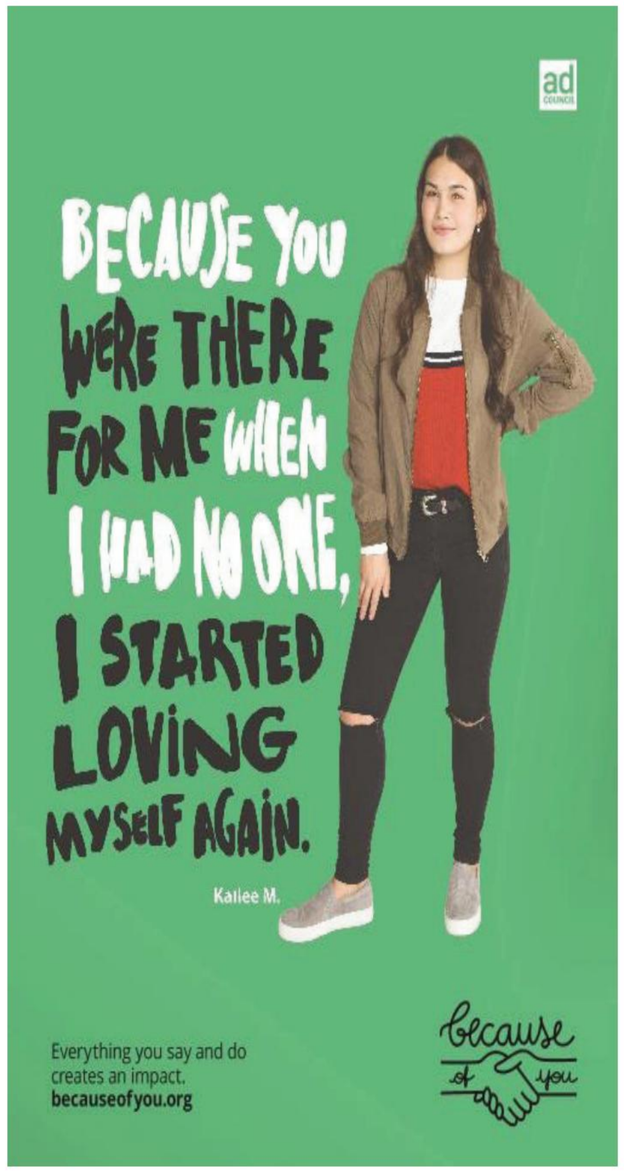
Bohack was informed a warrant for his arrest would be sought once the legislation session was over.

He was then given a ride home by an officer.

If a judge finds probable cause, Bohacek would be charged with Class A misdemeanor operating while intoxicated.

Fagan said the case was filed for a judge's review in mid-May because charges under the state constitution cannot be sought against a senator or representative until the legislative session is over for at least 15 days.

Bohacek, who's been a state senator since November of 2016, is quoted by the Indianapolis Star as saying, "I'm not going to comment on ongoing legal actions."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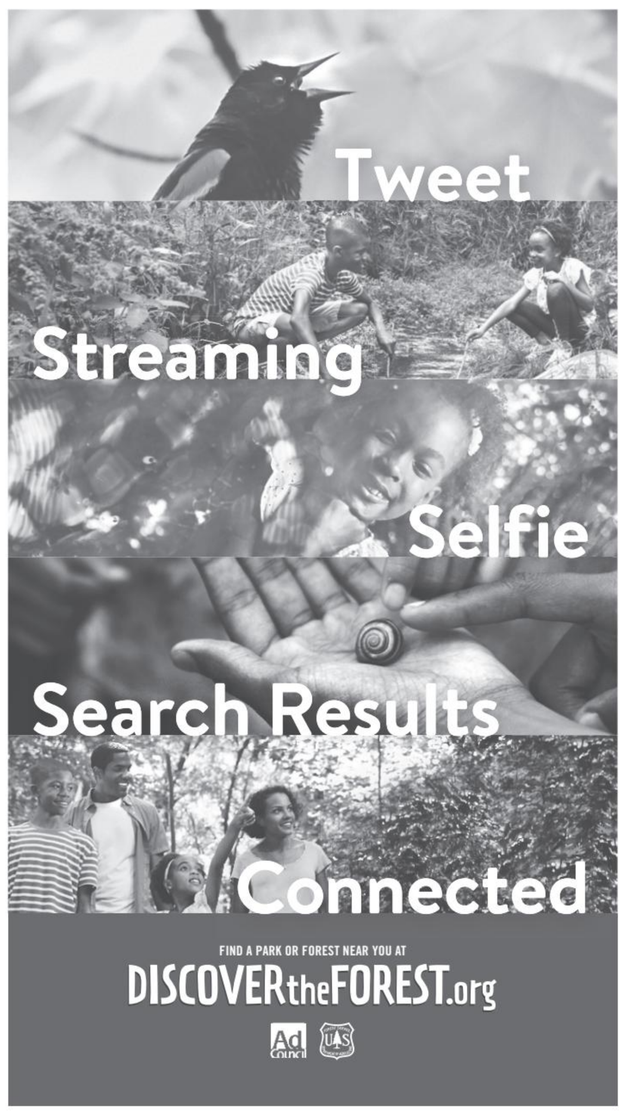

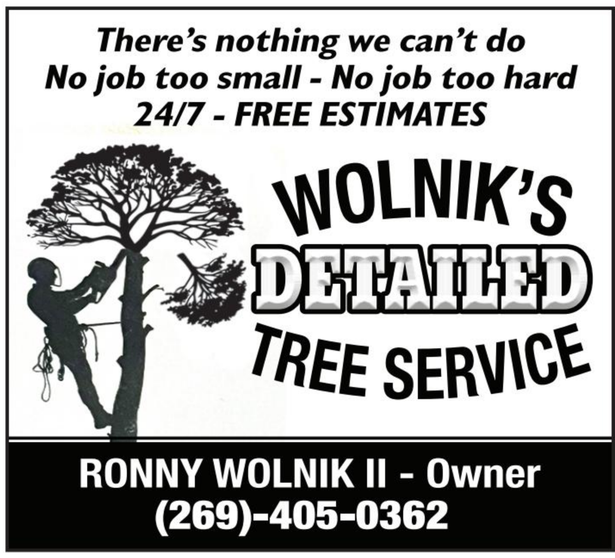

Drew Terwee and wife Ruby Chaise (center) cut the ribbon with Colleen Neubauer, Patty Knicker, KImberlee Wendt and John Bonkoske

CopperRock Executive Homes welcomed in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A Grand Rapids-based commercial construction firm has found a home in downtown New Buffalo.

CopperRock Executive Homes cut the ribbon on its newest office, located at 24 N. Whittaker Street in New Buffalo, Friday, May 30.

Kimberlee Wendt, executive director of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, said that the first time she met Drew Terwee, the executive homes manager, she could "see his passion not only for the building that he does but literally grounding himself here in the community."

"He thought the City of New Buffalo was so cool and how much he enjoyed this new location and watching people pass by and all the neighboring businesses around him," she said.

Terwee said that Copperrock has offices in Elkhart, Indiana, and East Lansing, Michigan, all of which mainly specialize in commercial construction.

Calling high end custom homes his "whole world," Terwee said that he joined CopperRock two years ago to start their custom home executive home division.

"This is truly our custom home office," he said.

Terwee said he's been involved in high end custom home construction since he was 15 years old.

"The first project I worked on when I had my tools for the first time was a $6 million renovation so that's been my whole life since before I could even drive," he said.

In the last 14-15 years, Terwee said he's done around $120 million worth of work in southwest Michigan, which has included Buchanan, Sawyer and Grand Beach.

He added that CopperRock is working on "three really cool projects," which should be completed by fall.

More than the "great design" and seeing "amazing things come together," Terwee said he enjoys getting to know those whom he serves.

"The most important thing to me is the friendship that's created with the client, when you do a good job, so you can be friends after it's done," he said.

He also enjoys the friendships he's formed with his fellow workers.

"It's been exciting having a great team behind me because I'm able to execute way better than I was prior to being on this team," he said.

Terwee said that the New Buffalo office will be used for meetings with architects, designers and clients as needed, as well as project managers and subcontractors.

Those who would like to set up an appointment can contact him at 616-644-6613 or email DrewT@copperrockconstruction.com. For more information, visit copperrockconstruction.com.

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